

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-17 are pending. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to remove the word “selectively” (in line with the helpful comments of the Examiner) and to add the “kneading” limitation from claim 4. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-11 and 13-17 stand rejected under Section 112, first and second paragraphs. In line with the Examiner’s comments, applicant has amended the claims, which render the rejections moot.

Claims 1, 8-10 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Stemke (U.S. Patent 4,891,146). In addition, claims 2-3, 5-9 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Stemke. In response, applicant has amended the claims to insert the “kneading” limitation from claim 4 into the independent claims. As set forth in the Office Action, claim 4 was not rejected on any prior art grounds.

In this regard, Stemke merely discloses a mixture step, which requires a substantial amount of solvent. Stemke does not suggest the claimed invention and its kneading step.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the examiner has any questions concerning this application, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

WATANABE ET AL.
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Duane M. Byers
Reg. No. 33,363

DMB:lfo
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100